

prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency are a part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

- (iii) Increased agricultural production;
- (iv) Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
- (v) Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System.

Medical teams of foreign countries for Gujarat

277. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign countries rushed medical teams for the service of earthquake victims in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many teams had to wait for many days in the absence of guidance and co-ordinator from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for their deployment; and

(d) the steps taken for optimum utilization of their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information available till date Medical teams from Germany (36 members), France (60 members), Hungary (15 members), Israel (160 members), Korea (23 members), Japan (9 members), Malaysia (7 members), Oman (14 members), Austria (19 members), South Korea (6 members), Mexico (12 members), reached Gujarat for providing medical relief to the earthquake victims.

(c) No, Sir.

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RAJYA SABHA

(d) The Crisis Management Group under the Ministry of Agriculture took appropriate steps for coordination with various relief agencies (International & national) for providing medical relief. State Control rooms were alerted to respond immediately to provide guidance to the medical teams from abroad for their deployment; placements were made according to requirement of service of the victims. A special coordination committee was formed to keep close contact, liaison and coordinate with foreign teams arriving at the Airport. Accommodation for their stay, transport was made, Escorts were provided to accompany them.

Malnourishment among children

278. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent survey made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has revealed that 50 per cent of the children in India are underweight and 74 per cent of young children are anaemic; and

(b) if so, whether Government have contemplated any socio-economic measures to combat the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the latest National Family Health Survey II (1998-99), the percentage of underweight children in 0-35 months category is 47.0%. 74% of children of 6-35 months of age are suffering from iron deficiency anaemia.

Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population are:—

- (i) Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast-feeding;